(c) the number of villages which are bereft of power in the country and also those in the Orissa State; and

(d) what is the action-plan of Government to provide power to all the villages in Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) During discusions with the World Bank on their programme for the power sector, the Bank's involvements in rural electrification has also been envisaged.

(c) The position regarding un-electrified village as on 31.03.2003 is as under:

All India	95970
Orissa	9686

(d) Electrification of all villages of Orissa has been targeted by 2007.

Defective E-Meters

892. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "DERC finds e-meters faulty, will rethink test method", as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the details of meters found defective by DERC with the names of the companies; and

(c) whether DERC have issued any directive to the State Elecrtricity Board (SEB) debarring it to purchase meters from these companies, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) had set up a committee to look into the various complaints received from the consumers in connection with their electricity meters. The Committee which undertook testing of about 375 meters has observed that more than 91% of the meters so tested recorded consumption level which were within the prescribed limit given in the Indian Electricity Rules. About 2% of the meters were found to be slow

and 0.5% were faster than the prescribed limit. About 5% of the meters, however, were found to be defective. The findings of the committee were published through a Press Note by Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC). These recommedndations are given in enclosed Statement (*See* below).

Subsequent to the issue of press release Commission had also tested about 38 meters. Out of these 6 electronic meters replaced by distribution companies and 4 electro–mechanical meters installed during Delhi Vidyut Board period were found to be fast and one meter was found to be slow beyond the specified limit. DERC at present is looking into the procedure/norms for testing of meters.

(c) Distribution companies have been advised by DERC to take necessary action on the line of these recommendation.

Statement

Recommendations of the committee set up by DERC

* The performace of M/s TTL meters, wherever installed, should be monitored by the DISCOMs concerned and be replaced wherever any defect is noticed.
* The BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (BRPL) should not install any TTL meters until the design defects found in these meters are rectified to the satisfaction of the BRPL. The modified meters should be sample tested by the above Committee before installation.
* Meters of Elymer procured by the erstwhile DVB are also found to be sub-standard. These meters are electro-magnetic type and the DISCOM would consider changing them on priority.
* In cases where the consumers are of the view that their meters are running fast, they may take up such cases with the DISCOMs for testing of their meters in accordance with DERC (Performance Standard-Metering & Billing) Regulations.
* Wherever the consumers find a quantum jump in their consumption (recorded by digital meters), they may report the matter to the DISCOMs. The DISCOM shall replace the meter and billing for the period shall be done in accordance with DERC (Performance Standard-Metering & Billing) Regulations.